

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02123 311701Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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O P 311640Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5088

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

COMSIXTHFLT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2123

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MT

SUBJECT: MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF VISITS ALGIERS

REF: VALLETTA 1004 (NOTAL)

1. MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF MADE LIGHTNING VISIT (20 HOURS) ALGIERS AUGUST 30-31. GOA GAVE MINTOFF VIP TREATMENT, SENDING PRESIDENTIAL JET TO BRING HIM AND TAKE HIM HOME. HE WAS ACCORDED CEREMONIAL AIRPORT RECEPTION AND SEND-OFF, COMPLETE WITH FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA AND FEW MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS (INCLUDING YOURS TRULY). INTERIOR MINISTER AND COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION MEMBER ABDELGHANI, INDUSTRY AND ENERGY MINISTER ABDESSELAM, AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER KASSIM, AS WELL AS BOUTEFLIKA ATTENDED MINTOFF'S AUGUST 30 MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE. HE DEPARTED AT 1200Z FOR TRIPOLI, WHERE HE TO SEE QADHAFI BRIEFLY, AND THEN HOME.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, TALKS BETWEEN TWO MEN DEALT WITH
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02123 311701Z

BILATERAL RELATIONS, SITUATION IN MEDITERRANEAN AND QUESTIONS

OF INTEREST TO TWO COUNTRIES. IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT MINTOFF NOTED THAT HE HERE IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION FROM BOUMEDIENE AND THAT VISIT WOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH "MEANS OF STRENGTHENING RELATIONS OF AMITY IN COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." HE ALSO NOTED THAT MALTA WAS MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THAT MALTA, ALGERIA AND LIBYA WERE WORKING TO BRING ABOUT LASTING PEACE IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN.

3. DIRECTOR EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, MOHAMED ABERKANE, TOLD ME ALGERIANS AND MALTESE UP UNTIL 12:30 LAST NIGHT DRAFTING COMMUNIQUE WHICH IS TO BE ISSUED AT 1800Z. HE DESCRIBED VISIT AS FRIENDLY ONE BETWEEN NEIGHBORS AND SAID MALTESE NEEDED ASSISTANCE FROM ALGERIANS WITH A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. PRESENCE OF MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ABDESSELAM IN DISCUSSIONS WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL.

4. COMMENT. WE NOTE VALLETTA'S REPORT VISIT PRIMARILY FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES AND HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, JUXTAPOSITION OF MINTOFF'S REFERENCES TO LIBYA AND UNUSUALLY LAUDATORY ARTICLE ABOUT TOMORROW'S CELEBRATION OF LIBYA'S NATIONAL DAY, BOTH OF WHICH GIVEN PROMINENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT BY ASH SHAABB

.
MY COLLEAGUES SUSPECT A LITTLE ENTENTE IS BREWING AND THAT MINTOFF VISIT WAS FRUIT OF BOUMEDIENE'S RECENT STOPOVER IN TRIPOLI. THEY MAY BE RIGHT.PARKER

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